

Resolution No.:	<u>17-805</u>
Introduced:	<u>July 9, 2013</u>
Adopted:	<u>July 16, 2013</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmember Ervin and Council President Navarro

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Montgomery County Early Childhood Advisory Council

Background

1. High-quality, early care and education has been demonstrated to positively affect children's early development, school readiness, and academic achievement. Such programs reduce the need to repeat grade levels and need for special education services; improve student life opportunities in a cost effective way; and reduce crime and reliance on public assistance.
2. The County Council has expressed great interest and support in strengthening the system of early care and education services, serving young children's ages birth through five, and increasing the participation in early childhood education programs, especially for children in families with low-income and other challenges such as special needs or limited English proficiency.
3. Early childhood stakeholder groups throughout the county have worked to strengthen the system of early care and education services. These groups include the Council-appointed Universal Preschool Implementation Work Group; the Montgomery County Early Care and Education Congress; the Montgomery County Leadership in Action Program; the Montgomery County Commission on Child Care; and the Higher Education Initiative in Early Childhood/Child Care. The groups have explored ways to improve access to quality early childhood education, develop a comprehensive system of early childhood services, and assure that all County children enter school fully ready to learn.
4. In December of 2012, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) received \$50 million to increase quality and access to and align all early childhood programs across the state. To further this effort, MSDE has mandated that all local jurisdictions establish a local Early Childhood Advisory Council. MSDE has charged the local government chief executive in partnership with the local superintendent of schools to initiate the establishment of the Early Childhood Advisory Council in each jurisdiction. The membership of the council is required to closely reflect the representation of the Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

5. The Montgomery County Early Childhood Advisory Council will monitor, advocate and make policy recommendations for developing a comprehensive coordinated early care and educational system that supports school readiness, provides support to state and local initiatives, and builds on the existing efforts to improve the system of early care and education in the County. The Council will advise local policy makers and provide a local forum for discussion of early childhood issues.
6. The Montgomery County Executive issued invitations to serve on the Montgomery County Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. The following individuals and their affiliated organizations have agreed to serve on the Council:
 - Kate Garvey, Co-Chair, Children, Youth and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Janine Bacquie, Co-Chair, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, Montgomery County Public School (MCPS)
 - Barbara Andrews, Early Childhood Services, DHHS
 - Jennifer Arnaiz, Montgomery County Children's Resource and Referral Center
 - Harriet Berger, Peppertree Children's Centers
 - Rosalba, Bonilla-Acosta, CentroNia
 - Kathi Carey-Fletcher, Montgomery College
 - Robin Chernoff, Montgomery County Collaboration Council
 - Amy Cropp, Child Find/Early Childhood Disabilities Unit, MCPS
 - Deborah Durham, MCPS Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
 - Carl Eggleston, Office of Child Care, Region 5, MSDE
 - Patsy Evans, Community Action Agency, DHHS
 - Natasha Fields, Infants and Toddlers Program, DHHS
 - Dianne Fisher, Community Health Services, DHHS
 - Kim Grant, Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County
 - Michelle Green, Montgomery Child Care Association
 - Lynne Harris, Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations
 - Keith Jones, MCPS Principal
 - Carol Legarreta, Montgomery County Public Libraries
 - Judy McMillan, School Health Services, DHHS
 - Meredith Myers, Family Services Inc.
 - Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Montgomery County Commission on Child Care
 - Linda Owen, Organization of Child Care Directors
 - Tobi Printz-Platnick, Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
 - Lois Stovall, Interfaith Communities
 - John Surr, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children/Community Advocate
 - Portia Willis, Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Vivian Yao, Montgomery County Council

Action

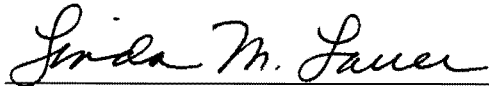
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council endorses the formation of the Montgomery County Early Childhood Advisory Council and the selection of its members.

The County Council requests that the County Executive issue an executive order formally instituting the group and report annually on the accomplishments and recommendations of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and kindergarten readiness rates in the County.

The County Council affirms its commitment to further developing a comprehensive system of early care and education services in the County that promotes school readiness, academic achievement, as well as physical growth and development, and social and emotional competencies, and ultimately, life success for all children in Montgomery County.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda M. Lauer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council